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Colombian Bishops Authorise Compensation for Damaged Church

(Bogota) - The Colombian national secretariat of the Roman Catholic Episcopate has asked Catholics in the city of La Plata to repair damage done to a partly erected Protestant chapel in their area.

A group of Catholic demonstrators pulled down a wall that was under construction and scattered the bricks.

The attack was preceded by outbursts against the Protestants and the local authorities who had given permission for the chapel to be built for the hundred-member local Protestant community.

The Catholic episcopate's appeal says the events were due to "proselytism, which is trying to gain a foothold among the Catholic population, whatever the cost and the methods involved".

The Roman Catholic Secretariat goes on to emphasise that, in spite of this, "the use of destructive force can never be justified against such attempts at penetration by sects which have tremendous financial resources at their disposal".

EPS, Geneva.

Roman Catholic Theologian Attacks Family Planning Methods

(Washington, D.C.) - A well-known American Roman Catholic theologian has criticised a Christian study group's finding that chemical and "artificial" methods of contraception may be morally justified as a means of spacing families.

Father John Ford, Jesuit professor of moral theology at the Catholic University of America, commenting on the report of the group, which met last April in

Oxford, England, reiterated his church's acceptance of the "rhythm" method that relies on periods of natural infertility.

"The use of the sterile period is essentially different morally from the use of artificial contraception", Father Ford said, "because the former does not destroy the marriage act but leaves it intact". He went on to say that "there is an essential moral difference between abstaining from an act and performing it while at the same time mutilating it. One means is in accordance with nature", he affirmed, "and the other is not".

The report criticised by Father Ford was made public last week. It was produced by a group of theologians and social scientists at the request of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. The report's findings do not bind either of the two world bodies. (See EPS no. 38) EPS, Geneva.

Prison Demanded for Spanish Pastor

(Madrid) - A Spanish Baptist pastor, charged with removing seals from the door of his chapel and re-entering it after its closure by the police in 1954, is facing the possibility of three months in prison and a fine of 2,500 pesetas (£16, \$45).

The Rev. Jose Nunez told a civil court that in 1956 he removed weather-worn paper seals affixed by police in 1954. He claimed that attempts to find out what authority had closed the chapel had been unsuccessful because his letters of protest, addressed to the government, were not answered.

The public prosecutor said removal of the seals from the chapel, which had previously been authorised by the Spanish Government as a place of worship in 1949, was illegal. He demanded the sentence and fine.

The court did not immediately announce its judgment in the trial, which was attended by about 400 Spanish Protestants. Other observers included a representative of the Southern Baptist Convention in the USA, which owns the chapel, and a US embassy official.

Attempts by the defendant's lawyer to invoke guarantees of religious liberty in the national constitution were disallowed by the court as irrelevant to the case. EPS, Geneva.

Division Mars Korean Presbyterian Assembly

(Seoul, Korea) - A split occurred in the Presbyterian Church of Korea at sessions of its 44th General Assembly last week.

Debate at the meeting broke out over proposals to recognise the name of the new United Presbyterian Church in the USA, formed last year as the result of merger between the United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church, USA. The second of these two bodies is the parent church of the Presbyterian Church in Korea.

The Korean church, with 555,000 members, is the largest in the country. A majority of delegates at its assembly, estimated at 150, favoured recognition of the name of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, but a more conservative minority of about 120 opposed recognition of the word "united" as implying approval of the ecumenical movement.

The minority group also advocates withdrawal of the church from the World Council of Churches.

Attempts to vote on the issue led to a "walk out" by adherents of the minority group. The majority met separately and elected the Rev. Chang Koo Yi as moderator. A committee has been charged with immediate attempts to heal the rift in the church.

After the assembly's rupture, a three-man deputation from the United Presbyterian Church in the USA announced that proposed winding-up of the UPUSA's mission in Korea and its integration into the Korean church would be suspended because of the failure to show confidence in the new United States church.

Two major schisms have occurred among Korean Presbyterians recently. In 1951 the fundamentalist Koryu Presbyterian Church seceded from the main body. The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, consisting of Canadian-related congregations, seceded in 1954.

EPS, Geneva.

More Visits Between Russian, German Churches

(Berlin) - A five-member delegation from the Russian Orthodox Church will visit Germany, October 16-29.

The visitors will confer with leaders of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) at Arnoldshain near Frankfurt in West Germany, October 26-29, about ecumenical cooperation.

Leader of the group is Bishop John of Berlin. He will be accompanied by Archpriest Vitaly Borovoy of Leningrad, who has this year visited World Council of Churches' headquarters in Geneva and the WCC's Central Committee meeting on the Island of Rhodes in August; Professor Nikolai Uspensky, also a Leningrad theological professor; Abbot Alexander Lechno of Berlin; and Professor Vladimir Talysin of the Moscow Theological Academy.

The group returns a visit of church leaders from the EKD to the Russian Orthodox Church in the USSR in the spring of 1958.

Another group of five German church leaders from East Germany (DDR) visited the USSR in September.

Reporting on the trip, general superintendent Fritz Führ of the Berlin-Bранdenburg church said that Patriarch Alexius of the Moscow Church had received the delegation in his summer residence at Odessa. Referring to church unity the Patriarch told them: "The children love their Father in various ways. The Father loves all His children in the same way. It is in the love of the Father that our unity is to be found."

The party went to theological training schools in Zagorsk, Leningrad and Odessa. Superintendent Führ and two other delegates also went to a Baptist church in Moscow.

In addition to Superintendent Führ the group included East German bishops Gottfried Noth of Dresden, Johannes Jänicke of Magdeburg, Moritz Mitzenheim of Eisenach, Church President Waldemar Schröter of Dresden and Pastor Gerhard Lotz of Eisenach.

EPS, Geneva.

World YWCA Council Meets in Mexico

(Cuernavaca, Mexico) - The policy-making Council of the World YWCA held its quadrennial meeting in Mexico at the end of September.

The first World YWCA conference to be held in Latin America, the Council was attended by two hundred and fifty delegates from more than sixty countries.

Charged with mapping out general lines for the YWCA's work in the next four year period, the meeting reviewed services to refugees, YWCA social and international responsibilities, international exchange of funds, staff and training facilities and ecumenical questions.

Speakers at the Cuernavaca council meeting were Professor P.R.Sherlock of the West Indies, on "Social Responsibility and Community Service"; Dr. Elfan Rees, adviser on refugee affairs to the World Council of Churches; and Mrs. Amalia C. de Castillo de Ledon of the Mexican Government's education ministry.

Fourteen teams of delegates are visiting YWCAs in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean area as a sequel to the council meeting, which was preceded by international consultations in Mexico on "Social and International Responsibility" and Leadership Development".

EPS, Geneva.

South African Appointed Secretary of All-Africa Conference

(Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia) - The All-Africa Christian Conference Provisional Committee has appointed Dr. Donald M'Timkulu as its full-time secretary.

Dr. M'Timkulu, 50, has been senior lecturer in education at the Fort Hare university college since 1956. Born in the Union of South Africa, he is a graduate of the University of South Africa, of Yale and of the University of Natal. He has also been a student at London University, England.

The new secretary has held a number of academic appointments in his own country and served on public bodies. His appointment follows a process of selection by the provisional committee, which was set up following the holding of the first meeting of the all-Africa body in January 1958, at Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr. M'Timkulu succeeds the interim secretary, Mr. G. C. Grant. He will visit Switzerland in November to make contact in Europe with the World Council of Churches, the International Missionary Council and other churches and missions.

From February Dr. M'Timkulu will take up work in Africa. His headquarters will be at Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia.

The provisional committee's meeting held at Salisbury in September, decided to prepare for another full meeting of the All-Africa Conference, probably in early 1963. Dr. M'Timkulu has been appointed for a three-year period and will make plans for the meeting. He will strengthen and extend contacts between Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches, organise meetings on ecumenical subjects, circulate study material and publish an information bulletin.

Objectives set down for future action by the new cooperative all-African agency at the Salisbury meeting are designed to help the churches follow political, industrial and urban movements among African populations. The provisional committee noted that present "strong points" of the Christian movement are often in town and rural parishes that are not well adapted to cope with the rapidly changing situation.

The committee will try to find ways of measuring up to the expansion of Islam, the uprooting of tribal peoples by modern technical advance, the fragmentation of Christians into many confessions and sects that are not cooperating with each other effectively, and stepped-up evangelisation in remote bush areas.



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The new secretary will work closely with people responsible for local experiments in Christian action in the family, the school and in political and social responsibility.

Participants in the provisional committee meeting at Salisbury under the chairmanship of Sir Francis Ibiā of Nigeria included well-known South African writer Alan Paton, Dr. George Carpenter of the International Missionary Council and the Rev. Philip Potter of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, staff.

EPS, Geneva.

YMCA Aids Japanese Typhoon Victims

(Nagoya) - Swift action by two German YMCA members has led to German help for victims of the disastrous typhoon Vera that swept parts of Japan on the night of September 26. (See EPS No. 39)

Albert Schwarz and Gerhard Gūthler, touring Asia in a Volkswagen bus, telephoned from Japan to the German National Committee of the YMCA in Kassel to report that YMCA volunteers in Japan were standing by to help, but needed supplies.

Within an hour a sum of five thousand Deutschmarks (\$ 1,090) was offered. An American airline offered to fly medicaments free from Germany daily in response to the appeal.

German radio and television stations broadcast the YMCA message and German firms have been sending emergency rations and medicaments in a large-scale relief campaign to help cope with widespread dysentery and the shock of a cold spell that has followed the tragedy.

EPS, Geneva.

In Brief

Ten well-known Methodist leaders from the younger churches are conducting a two-month "Mission to America" from October to December. Ordered by the 1956 General Conference of the American Methodist Church, the mission aims "to lead the Methodists of America toward a great spiritual awakening".

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The Methodist Church in Czechoslovakia recently voted to grant women "equality in all functions of the ministry" and ordained three as deacons and four lay preachers as lay deacons. Methodist adherents in the country are estimated at 6,600. The Rev. Vaclav Vancura is superintendent.

* *

Dr. Howard Schomer, president of the Chicago Theological Seminary and a former staff member of the World Council of Churches, has been elected president of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an international body of Christian pacifists.

* *

A group of 39 Serbian Orthodox priests has just concluded a ten-day visit to the famous Orthodox monasteries on Mount Athos in Greece. The group, largest to visit Mount Athos since World War II, also visited Salonica and was received by Metropolitan Panteleimon.

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American Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam has been awarded the 1959 "Upper Room" Citation for outstanding Christian leadership. The honour is conferred in Baltimore, USA, by the bi-monthly devotional guide, "The Upper Room," issued in 31 languages by the Methodist Board of Evangelism. The citation made special mention of the bishop's services to the ecumenical movement and the World Council of Churches, of which he was a president from 1948 to 1954.

* *

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake defended contacts with Christians behind the iron curtain in an address to ministers and leaders of the Hungarian Reformed Church in North America. "I am always worried," he said, "about those people who think that when a Christian talks to a Communist it is the Christian who is going to be converted to Communism, and not the Communist to Christianity."

* *

One hundred and fifty-three representatives of major Protestant radio and literature agencies of Latin America, the United States and Canada met in Cali, Colombia, for a Congress on Evangelical Communications in September. They formed a new radio and television agency to be known as DIA (Difusiones Inter-Americanas), elected new directors for existing bodies, and laid plans for the next three years.

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Dr. U. Hla Bu of Rangoon, chairman of the Burma Christian Council since 1952, has been named as Henry W. Luce Visiting Professor of World Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, New York, for the academic year 1959-1960.

* *

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the Lutheran World Federation, has been visiting middle eastern countries. He has been received by King Hussein of Jordan in Amman and by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Dr. Fry is also chairman of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee. EPS, Geneva.

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Correction: The Ngumba Protestant Church referred to on page 6 of EPS No. 38, October 2, was separated from the missionary work of the Presbyterian Church USA, and was not established from French Missions.

